

**BRATTLEBORO TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2013
8:30AM – SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM
MINUTES**

Members present: Town Manager Barbara Sondag, Public Works Director Steve Barrett, Police Chief Gene Wrinn, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi, Planning Director Rod Francis, Leo Schiff as Chamber of Commerce Representative, Robert Immler as Citizen Representative, and Betsy Gentile as School Representative.

Selectboard representative present: David Gartenstein.

Other staff members present: Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Police Captain Mike Fitzgerald, and Highway/Utilities Superintendent Hannah O'Connell.

Others present: Terry A. Carter, Trudy Fleming, Matt Mann, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Town Manager Sondag called the meeting to order at 8:32am. She confirmed that the meeting was properly warned. Minutes from the November 27, 2012 meeting were presented.

**MOTION BY DAVID GARTENSTEIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 27, 2012.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Public Participation – Terry Carter reiterated her concerns regarding pedestrian safety in the area around Vermont Avenue and Harris Avenue to St. Michael's Church on Putney Road.

At this time, the Committee agreed to adjust the agenda to address specific agenda items where members of the public were in attendance.

Williams Street Intersections – *Update from WRC.* Matt Mann, from Windham Regional Commission, said he was waiting to hear from VTrans as to when it may schedule a review of the guardrails at the bridge on Williams Street in order to improve site distance. Public Works Director Barrett said he would communicate with the Town Attorney and meet with property owners regarding rights of way in order to make changes at the blind corner on Williams Street so as to improve visibility there, and that it would be spring before any work could be done. Unidentified members of the public asked when Williams Street would be open to through traffic, asked about installing a stop sign, and voiced concerns about the speed of the traffic on Williams Street after it was re-opened. There was discussion about the data not supporting installation of a stop sign at that location, about speed control devices, and unintended consequences of improved roads.

Western Avenue Grant Agreements – *Update.* Sondag said that the grant agreements have not yet been received and that she expected to hear something in the near future.

Academy School – *Winter Traffic Calming Devices, Speed Trailer, Update.* There was discussion about possible traffic calming devices near Academy School. Police Chief Wrinn said that the Town did not have an operational speed trailer, but that he would check with the Sheriff's office about using their speed trailer on a temporary basis.

Request for Crosswalk at Birge and Estey Streets - *Update with engineering specs.* There was a brief discussion about the lack of line of site near the intersection of Birge and Estey Streets, concerns about the safety of pedestrians if a crosswalk were installed, and the cost of performing an engineering study. There was agreement that due to safety concerns, the intersection was not appropriate for the installation of a crosswalk.

**MOTION BY GENE WRINN, AND SECONDED BY STEVE BARRETT, TO HAVE PUBLIC WORKS
INFORM THE CITIZEN THAT THE LOCATION IS NOT A SAFE PLACE FOR A CROSSWALK.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Traffic Calming Plan – Draft procedures. Hanna O’Connell, Public Works Highways/Utilities Superintendent, provided the Committee with a draft Traffic Calming Plan and she reviewed some key aspects of it. The Committee discussed the Plan and had several suggestions for additions and revisions, including the process by which citizens may bring their concerns to the Town’s attention, method for establishing a baseline for traffic counts, ranking and prioritizing complaints and remedies, responding to citizens’ concerns, tailoring the Plan to more specifically address Brattleboro’s layout and needs, and broadening the focus of the plan to include pedestrians. The Committee agreed to continue its discussion in order to finalize the Plan.

Ad Hoc Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Committee – Update on Meeting with Local Motion. Sondag said that on January 9 she attended a planning workshop with Jason Van Driesche from Local Motion. She said that Jason was putting together a larger strategy plan for a core spring outreach campaign, but that winter outreach strategies could be implemented now, such as distributing reflective legbands, recruiting volunteers, defining target outreach groups, and engaging the police department. She said that she received 300 reflective legbands and they would be distributed to certain target groups soon. There was a brief discussion by the Committee.

Other Business

Leo Schiff asked if the Committee could discuss the condition of crosswalks at its next meeting. There was no further business.

MOTION BY DAVID GARTENSTEIN AT 9:40AM TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.